"The viler we are, the more we need His grace"

"…And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me." (Genesis 32:26)

WHAT a strange intermixture there is in a believing heart of everything to cast down and yet of everything to encourage! How there is everything on the one side to perplex, to confuse, and put the soul to its wits' end, and yet how on the other there is everything to hold up its head, strengthen its faith, support its hope, and encourage it to hold on to the last gasp! Now this is that very trial of faith which is more precious than of gold that perishes, for faith is not a dead, sluggish grace, and is never more active than when it is being tried as with fire. You cannot give up from what you have felt and experienced, for that is the grand evidence, the persuasion that you have the life of God in your soul, and compared with that how worthless and valueless all other things seem to be in your eyes, because to give that up is to give up all your hope.

Here, then, is the grand mystery, to hang and hold on, to hold out, and not allow oneself to be cast away, but the more the Lord would seem to put us away, the more to cling to him. Was not this the faith of the Syrophoenician woman, who, so to speak, would not take 'No' for an answer? [Mark 7:27] or, like the faith of Ruth, 'Entreat me not to leave you?' or, like the faith of Hannah, when 'she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the LORD and wept sore?' (1 Samuel 1:10) Does not this faith resemble that of Heman's, when he cried out, 'Will you show wonders to the dead? Shall the dead arise and praise you?' (Psalm 88:10) and that of Asaph, when his feet were almost gone, and his steps had well-near slipped? [Psalm 73:2].

Thus the more the Lord seems to put us away, the more we cling to Him. The viler we are, the more we need His grace; and the very magnitude of our sins only makes us hang more upon His atoning blood and cling more closely to His word and promises as suitable to our case. Nor will anything induce us to give up our hope or relinquish our hold of His mercy. [AMEN!] — J.C. Philpot

An excerpt from Through Baca's Vale, Daily Words for Zion's Wayfarers

"Jesus only came to save sinners"

"…Christ Jesus came…to save sinners…"

(1 Timothy 1:15)

THERE is no other gospel but salvation by grace through faith in Christ alone [Galatians 1:6-9]. I will tell it to all who will listen, and even when they won't. But there is only one type of person the gospel is intended for. It is for sinners. These elect, redeemed, and called people are sinners. They are without merit, without righteousness, and without hope [in themselves]. They are dead, blind, and leprous sinners. And these alone will hear the gospel, believe the gospel, love the gospel, and support the gospel. For Jesus only came to save sinners. Therefore I long to preach to sinners. [AMEN!] — Fred Evans

SOVEREIGN GRACE CHURCH

January 29th, 2023

We gather together
Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. and
Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m.

Nursery available for 4 years old and younger

"…the gospel of God …Concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord …"

(Romans 1:1, 3)

JOSEPH D MURPHY, PASTOR

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SOVEREIGN GRACE CHURCH

23033 HUGHEY LN, NEW CANEY, TEXAS 77357 / (832) 543-533

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[READER,] Are you IN CHRIST? Is this your desire to be found only IN HIM? If death comes to you, will it find you IN CHRIST? If the justice of God finds you, will it find you IN CHRIST? IN CHRIST, there is no death! IN CHRIST there is no condemnation! IN CHRIST, there is no threatening or wrath of God but only forgiveness, pardon, peace, and love (John 11:25; Romans 8:1; Isaiah 53:11; Psalm 103:1-4)! I know it is all my daily desire and prayer to be *"found IN HIM* [IN CHRIST] *not having my own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is BY THE FAITH OF CHRIST…"* (Philippians 3:9). [AMEN!] —Fred Evans

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WELCOME

SINNERS are welcome at Sovereign Grace Church. We are a local body of the Lord Jesus Christ. As you spend time with us, you'll soon discover we're an imperfect assembly, with an imperfect pastor, yet by God's underserved grace, we preach, believe, and know the perfect gospel of our never failing Lord Jesus Christ. Reader, we call His name Jesus for He shall (not might, not maybe) rather He shall save His people from their sins. And beloved believing sinner you already know it! You are *complete in Him*, saved to the *uttermost* [Colossians 2:10, Hebrews 7:25].

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sovereign Grace Conference 2023 / Pastor Fred Evans
Friday, February 24th, 7:30 PM,
Saturday, February 25th, 11:00 AM,
Sunday, February 26th, 11:00 AM

RESOURCES

BE sure to visit our website for gospel articles, live messages, and resources.

GRACE ARTICLES

Without Christ you can do nothing

"…unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in His wings …" (Malachi 4:15)

NO saint can act that grace he hath received, by his own strength, without the presence and assistance of Christ: 1 Corinthians 15:10, *"But by the grace of God I am what I am: and His grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was* with *me."* He does not say, the grace of God which was *in* me, that habitual grace which I had; but the grace of God which was *with* me. So then it is not the strength of habitual grace, which will carry a man through doing or suffering work—but the auxiliary, the assisting, the conquering grace of Jesus Christ. It is His grace *with* us, more than His grace *in* us.

So [we read in] John 15:5, *Without Me you can do nothing*. Ye who are my disciples, ye who have the Spirit of Jesus Christ, *Without me you can do nothing;* the *habits* of grace, the *actings* of grace, and the *perfecting* of grace—are all from Jesus Christ. It is more emphatic in the original, for there you have two negatives, 'cannot, do nothing.' He does not say, "Without Me you cannot do *many things*," but, "Without me you can do *nothing*." Nor He does not say, "Without me you can do *no great thing*," but, "Without me you can do *nothing*." Nor He does not say, "Without me you can do *no difficult thing*," but, "Without me you can do *nothing*." Nor He does not say, "Without me you can do *no spiritual thing*," but, "Without me you can do *nothing*."

Whatever a saint may do by the power of gifts, or habits of grace received—yet he can do nothing in a lively spiritual acceptable way without the presence of Christ, without a constant dependence upon Christ, without a sweet and special communion and fellowship with Christ. If we cannot put forth a natural action without Him—*for in Him we live, and move, and have our being*, Acts 17:28—how much less can we perform a spiritual action, in a spiritual manner—without His presence and assistance?

"While the King sitteth at His table, my spikenard [my perfume] *sendeth forth the smell* [the fragrance] *thereof"* (Song of Songs 1:12). That is, let Jesus Christ be but present with us, and then our graces, which are compared to perfume, will send forth its fragrance. Sitting at the table with King Jesus intimates the sweetest friendship and fellowship with Him. It was held a great honor and happiness to stand before Solomon, 1 Kings 10:8; what is it then to sit with Christ at His table? *"My spikenard* [my aroma] *sendeth forth the smell thereof;"* that is, My faith is actuated, and all my other graces are exercised and increased. Christ's presence puts life into all our graces: Isaiah 41:10—*"Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."* 2 Corinthians 12:10—*"…when I am weak, then am I strong."* When I am weak in myself, then am I strong in Christ. If the sun shines upon the Mary-gold [flower], how soon does the Mary-gold [flower] open. And so, when the Sun of righteousness does but shine upon a Christian's graces, how do they open and act! Malachi 4:2—*"… unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in His wings…"* [AMEN!] — Thomas Brooks (1675)